

NAVY PROGRAMS

Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI)

The Navy Marine Corps Intranet (NMCI) is an information technology (IT) service contract intended to provide reliable, secure, and seamless information services to the shore-based components of the Navy and Marine Corps. NMCI infrastructure and services will not extend to afloat or deployed units. However, NMCI will provide deployable workstations to deployed forces to be used with the Navy's Integrated Shipboard Network System and the Marine Corps Tactical Network. NMCI supports new processes and enables new initiatives such as knowledge management, distance learning, and tele-medicine to improve the quality of life for Department of the Navy employees and support personnel. NMCI will provide IT services using a seat management contract that delivers comprehensive information services through a common computing and communications environment. Seat management is a method of coordinating all the workstations in an enterprise network by overseeing the installation, operation, and maintenance of hardware and software at each workstation. Upgrades, modernization, and technology refreshment will occur over the NMCI contract life cycle.

The NMCI contract is for the procurement of IT services (not systems) based upon a commercial model of service-level agreements. Under this model, emphasis is placed on the verification, validation, and monitoring of the end-user services and not on the underlying infrastructure or systems. The architecture will support Navy and Marine Corps bases, camps, stations, and activities in the Continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, for an estimated 360,000 seats. It is anticipated that a total of 72 server farms, six network operations centers, and two help desk centers will be required.

The Navy Operational Test and Evaluation Force (OPTEVFOR) conducted a baseline system assessment (BSA) in FY01 on the pre-NMCI IT configuration, including hardware, software, security, and current performance levels at four Naval aviation sites. DOT&E evaluated the results of the BSA and will reference those results against the future system (which will be evaluated during operational evaluation (OPEVAL)) to measure improvements provided by NMCI. Due to the large scale and complexity of the NMCI initiative, implementation will take several years to reach full operating capability.

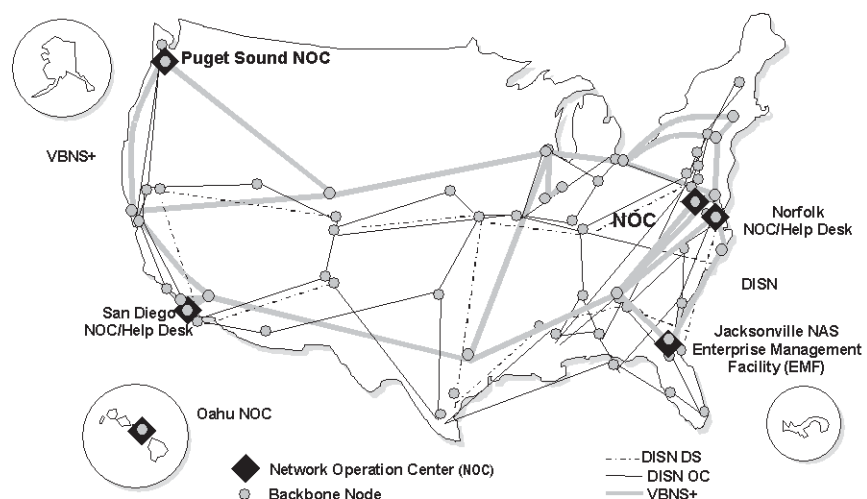
TEST & EVALUATION ACTIVITY

DOT&E approved an updated Test and Evaluation Strategy for NMCI on September 4, 2002.

OPTEVFOR conducted an operational assessment (OA) during September-October 2002 to assess NMCI readiness for OPEVAL and to support further initial deployment. This OA was conducted at five operational sites, including four Naval aviation sites and Fleet Forces Command, under a DOT&E-approved test plan.

The United States Marine Corps (USMC) conducted an OA for the NMCI deployable solutions at a Marine Corps base in Hawaii during February-March 2003.

OPTEVFOR conducted an OPEVAL during October-November 2003.



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TEST & EVALUATION ASSESSMENT

The September-October 2002 OA was unable to provide a comprehensive review of NMCI operations because many of the target capabilities were either not yet available or the data collection process was not sufficiently mature to produce the required data for evaluation. Working with the partial data obtained during the OA, OPTEVFOR found only 6 of the 16 critical operational issues (COIs) were met. Five COIs (customer service and support, network support, interoperability, mission support, and logistic supportability) of the remaining ten posed high risk for failure to meet requirements during the OPEVAL, four COIs posed a moderate risk, and one COI was not tested. Overall, 72 major deficiencies were identified across nine COIs. The Program Director initiated a corrective action plan, and in April 2003, OPTEVFOR began a VCD to confirm the fixes. The VCD completed in October 2003. DOT&E assessment is ongoing.

The USMC OA of the NMCI deployable solutions identified several deficiencies. Field operators could not conduct effective reachback from deployed positions, nor could they access the NMCI help desk.

OPTEVFOR conducted an OPEVAL during October-November 2003 to assess the operational effectiveness and operational suitability of NMCI at five test sites: Naval Air Facility Washington, DC; Naval Air Systems Command Headquarters, Patuxent River, Maryland; Naval Air Station Lemoore, California; Naval Reserve Center Lemoore, California; and Fleet Forces Command, Virginia. An aircraft carrier was to be part of the OPEVAL to evaluate the deployable solutions, but none were available during the OPEVAL period. OPTEVFOR plans to evaluate the deployable solutions on a carrier in a follow-on operational test. DOT&E's assessment of the OPEVAL is ongoing.